



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Man Convicted of Theft, Forgery and Fraud for Depositing Two Phony \$5 Million Checks**

An Adams County jury has convicted kitchen contractor Herman Hinojosa on eight charges of theft, forgery and check fraud in connection with his deposit of a fraudulent \$5 million check at a bank in Rifle.

After the jury returned its verdict Tuesday afternoon, Hinojosa (DOB 06/24/44) pleaded guilty to theft in another case in which he was charged with depositing another fraudulent \$5 million check at a credit union in Rifle. Trial of that case was to begin Wednesday.

On December 9, Hinojosa deposited a \$5 million check at Alpine Bank in Rifle that was drawn on his Premier Members Credit Union account that was overdrawn at the time. He also wrote a \$38,500 check for earnest money and attempted to wire \$860,000 in payment for real estate he was attempting to buy in Rifle.

On December 21, Hinojosa deposited another \$5 million personal check at Western Rockies Federal Credit Union in Rifle which was drawn against his overdrawn Premier Members Credit Union account.

Hinojosa will be sentenced at 1:30 p.m. Oct. 27 in the first two cases. He also faces sentencing as a habitual offender.

Hinojosa also faces trial Oct. 11 on multiple charges of theft and check fraud in connection with his business, Kitchens 4 Less. He and his wife, Susan Hinojosa, were charged in 2014 with 30 counts of theft and check fraud for taking funds for kitchen remodeling projects that were not done. Susan Hinojosa was convicted and sentenced to eight years in prison and ordered to pay \$100,848.38 in restitution.

The case is one of the first prosecuted by the Economic Crime Unit of the District Attorney's Office.

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